

This is an overview in English. Please consider that only the original text in Italian language has legal value.

**Decree of the Minister of Health of 30 April 2020  
Criteria for health risk monitoring during Phase Two of the response to the Covid-19  
epidemic**

*(OJ N. 112 of 02-5-2020)*

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This is an overview of the main provisions of the Decree of the Minister of Health of 30 April 2020 'Criteria for health risk monitoring during Phase Two of the response to the Covid-19 epidemic'.

In broad terms, the Ministry of Health will monitor the situation to assess the extent to which regional healthcare services are able to:

- **Mitigate** the contagion spread among the general population and minimize the increase in new Covid-19 cases which the Ministry regards as inevitable during the first two or three weeks of Phase Two
- **Prevent** the contagion spread in **hospitals and residential homes** for the elderly/vulnerable people
- Prevent any **capacity issue** in hospitals and ICUs.

To this purpose, the Ministerial Decree sets out 3 different groups of indicators. Basing on a combination of these indicators the Ministry of Health will assess the probability (from very low to high) of Covid-19 transmission and the expected impact (from very low to high) of the Covid-19 transmission in each Region.

**The two criteria combined (probability and impact) will enable the Ministry of Health to characterise each Region in terms of the risk of an uncontrolled/unmanageable Covid-19 contagion spread, on a scale from "very low" to "very high".**

This characterisation will need to be updated **on a weekly basis**.

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**Group 1 - Indicators of monitoring capabilities**

The following indicators will be used to assess the quality of surveillance systems and data recording in each regional healthcare service:

	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target (this is the threshold that regional healthcare services should meet)</b>	<b>Warning (this is where a regional healthcare service will be characterised as non-compliant with regards to each indicator)</b>
1.1	Notified cases of patients showing Covid-19 symptoms with an indication of the date when the symptoms appeared/Total notified cases of patients showing covid-19 symptoms per month	At least 60% with an upward trend. During the first 3 weeks starting May 4, 50% or more with an upward trend will be regarded as acceptable	Less than 50% during the first 3 weeks starting May 4; Less than 60% going forward
1.2	Notified cases of hospitalised covid-19 patients with an indication of the date when they were hospitalized/Total notified cases of hospitalized patients per month	Same as above	Same as above
1.3	Notified cases of Covid-19 patients who were admitted in ICUs with an indication of the date when they were admitted in an ICU/Total notified cases of covid-19 patients admitted in ICUs per month	Same as above	Same as above
1.4	Notified cases of Covid-19 patients with an indication of their Municipality of domicile or residence/Total number of notified cases of Covid-19 patients per month	Same as above	Same as above
1.5 <i>(optional)</i>	Number of checklists submitted to residential homes for the elderly/disabled/other vulnerable people every week	At least 50% of residential homes covered with an upward trend	Less than 50% of residential homes covered
1.6 <i>(optional)</i>	Number of respondent residential homes reporting at least 1 critical case	Less than 30% with a downward trend	Over 30%

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### **Group 2 - Indicators on diagnosis and contact tracing**

The following indicators will be used to assess how effective each regional healthcare service is in diagnosing new covid-19 patients and tracing their contacts to mitigate the contagion spread:

	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target (this is the threshold that regional healthcare services should meet)</b>	<b>Warning (this is where a regional healthcare service will be characterized as non-compliant with regards to each indicator)</b>
2.1	Monthly % of positive tests (excluding screening programmes and re-testing of already tested patients): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total rate</li> <li>• Breakdown by setting (ambulatory, hospital/ER, other)</li> </ul>	Rate of positive tests showing a downward trend in hospital/ER setting + Positive predictive value of tests remaining stable or declining	Rate of positive tests showing an upward trend in hospital/ER setting Or Positive predictive value of tests showing an increase
2.2	Time lapse between the first symptoms and the diagnosis	Weekly median not exceeding 5 days	Weekly median higher than 5 days
2.3 (optional)	Time lapse between the first symptoms and the beginning of the quarantine	Weekly median not exceeding 3 days	Weekly median higher than 3 days
2.4	Number and characteristics of healthcare professionals dedicated to contact-tracing in every local healthcare unit	Aligned with the standard requirements recommended at the EU level	Not aligned with the standard requirements recommended at the EU level
2.5	Number and characteristics of the healthcare professionals dedicated to blood (serological) tests and to monitoring contacts of Covid-positive people who are placed in quarantine	Same as above	Same as above
2.6	Number of new confirmed Covid-19 cases on which an epidemiological investigation is conducted to detect contacts of Covid-positive people/Total number of new confirmed cases	Upward trend, with a final target of 100%	

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**Group 3 - Indicators on Covid-19 transmission and healthcare services capacity**

The following indicators will be used to assess how fast covid-19 is spreading in each Region as phase 2 progresses and how seriously the contagion spread impacts on the capacity of hospitals and ICUs:

	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Target (this is the threshold that regional healthcare services should meet)</b>	<b>Warning (this is where a regional healthcare service will be characterized as non-compliant with regards to each indicator)</b>
3.1	Weekly number of confirmed cases recorded by the Civil Protection Department in the last 14 days	Downward or stable weekly trend	Upward trend over the last 5 days. However, the Ministry expects the number of cases to increase over the 15-20 days following the kick-off of phase 2 (4 May); during this period, this indicator will be assessed in combination with indicator 3.5
3.2	Regional Covid-19 transmission rate	Not exceeding 1	Over 1
3.3 <i>(optional)</i>	Weekly number of cases recorded by the National Health Service's surveillance system	Downward or stable weekly trend	Upward trend over the last 5 days. However, the Ministry expects the number of cases to increase over the 15-20 days following the kick-off of phase 2 (4 May); during this period, this indicator will be assessed in combination with indicators 3.1 and 3.5
3.4	Daily number of cases (breakdown by date of diagnosis and date of the first symptoms), as recorded by the NHI's surveillance system	Same as above	Same as above

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3.5	New Covid-19 outbreaks (defined as two or more cases that are epidemiologically linked to one another, or as an unexpected increase of cases in a specific area in a specific timeframe)	No new outbreaks in a given Region <i>or</i> Risk assessment promptly conducted on any new outbreak, so as to decide whether or not a "red zone" should be set up in the relevant sub-regional area	New outbreaks recorded in the last 7 days, particularly in hospitals/residential homes for the elderly and other vulnerable people  The presence of new outbreaks in a given Region requires a risk assessment with a view to decide whether the Region should go back to phase 1.
3.6	Number of new confirmed Covid-19 cases that are not associated to any already known transmission chain	If there are new recorded Covid-19 outbreaks in that area, this indicator may help assess the effectiveness of contact tracing  If there are no new recorded outbreaks, the presence of new cases that are not associated to any transmission chain may just signal that there are only sporadic cases in that area	If there are new recorded covid-19 outbreaks, the presence of new cases that are not associated to any previously known transmission chain requires a risk assessment to decide whether or not the relevant area or Region should go back to phase 1
3.7 <i>(optional)</i>	Number of accesses to emergency care units of people with symptoms associated to the Covid-19 infection	Stable or showing a downward trend in at least 80% of emergency care units in a given Region	Showing an upward trend in 50% of emergency care units in a given Region
3.8	% of ICU beds occupied by patients with covid-19/Total ICU beds	Within 30%	Over 30%
3.9	% of hospital beds occupied by patients with Covid-19/Total ICU beds	Within 40%	Over 40%

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**Algorithm to determine the PROBABILITY of Covid-19 transmission in a given Region**

Question	If the answer is YES	If the answer is NO
1. Any new recorded cases in Region X in the last 5 days?	Go to question n.2	Probability is VERY LOW
2. Is there evidence of at least 2 of the following 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Covid-19 cases showing an upward trend</li> <li>• Transmission rate higher than 1</li> <li>• New outbreaks (or increase in the size of existing outbreaks)</li> </ul>	Go to question n.3	Probability is LOW
3. Is there evidence that the Covid-19 transmission in Region X <u>cannot</u> be managed by setting up red zones at the local level?	Probability is HIGH	Probability is MODERATE

**Algorithm to determine the IMPACT of Covid-19 transmission in a given Region**

Question	If the answer is YES	If the answer is NO
1. Any new cases in Region X among people over 50 years of age?	Go to question n.2	Impact is VERY LOW
2. Is there any evidence that healthcare services in Region X are overloaded?	Go to question n.3	Impact is LOW
3. Any new outbreaks in Region X over the last 7 days impacting hospitals/residential homes for the elderly or other accommodations for vulnerable people (i.e. elderly or people with pre-existing conditions)?	Impact is HIGH	Impact is MODERATE

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**Risk assessment, as a combination of probability and impact of covid-19 transmission in a given Region**

	<i>Very low probability</i>	<i>Low probability</i>	<i>Moderate probability</i>	<i>High probability</i>
<i>Very low impact</i>	Very low risk	Low risk	Low risk	Moderate risk
<i>Low impact</i>	Low risk	Low risk	Moderate risk	Moderate risk
<i>Moderate impact</i>	Low risk	Moderate risk	Moderate risk	<b>High risk</b>
<i>High impact</i>	Moderate risk	Moderate risk	<b>High risk</b>	<b>Very high risk</b>